

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Amended claims follow:

1-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A signal transmitting cable for installation into a tube by means of blowing by compressed fluid, the cable comprising a first signal transmitting portion including a plurality of elongate, flexible first optical signal transmitting members, wherein the first optical signal transmitting members of the first signal transmitting portion are surrounded by a first layer of resin material curable by means of radiation such that only the outermost optical signal transmitting members are in contact with said first layer, and said first optical signal transmitting members are arranged to form at least three rows, wherein for each said row containing a plurality of said members, said members are arranged such that neighbouring members of said row are in touching contact with each other, each recess formed by neighbouring members of a first said row facing towards a second said row accommodates a respective member of said second row, and said first layer is in touching contact with substantially all of the outward facing surface of the first signal transmitting portion.

29. (Currently Amended) A cable according to claim 28, wherein the first signal transmitting portion includes 12 said first optical signal transmitting members arranged in 4 rows having 2, 3, 4 and 3 optical signal transmitting members respectively.

30. (Currently Amended) A cable according to claim 28, wherein the first signal transmitting portion includes 18 said first optical signal transmitting members arranged in 5 rows having 2, 4, 5, 4 and 3 optical signal transmitting members respectively.

31. (Currently Amended) A cable according to claim 28, wherein the first signal transmitting portion includes 24 said first optical signal transmitting members

arranged in 5 rows having 4, 5, 6, 5 and 4 optical signal transmitting members respectively.

32. (Previously Presented) A cable according to claim 28, wherein said first layer is formed of resin material cured by means of ultraviolet radiation.

33. (Currently Amended) A cable according to claim 28, further comprising a second signal transmitting portion comprising a plurality of elongate, flexible second optical signal transmitting members arranged around the periphery of said first layer, wherein said external dimensions of said first layer are arranged such that each said second optical signal transmitting member is in touching contact with two adjacent said second optical signal transmitting members.

34. (Currently Amended) A cable according to claim 33, further comprising a third signal transmitting portion comprising a plurality of elongate, flexible third optical signal transmitting members arranged outwardly of said second signal transmitting portion.

35. (Currently Amended) A cable according to claim 33, wherein said second optical signal transmitting members are embedded in a second layer.

36. (Previously Presented) A cable according to claim 28, wherein an outer surface of the cable is modified to facilitate installation into a duct by means of fluid flow.

37. (Previously Presented) A cable according to claim 36, wherein said outer surface is provided with ribs.

38. (Previously Presented) A cable according to claim 36, wherein said outer surface includes at least one anti-static material.

39. (Previously Presented) A cable according to claim 36, wherein said outer surface includes at least one friction reducing material.

40. (Previously Presented) A cable according to claim 28, further comprising an outermost layer having an inner periphery longer than the outer periphery of the layer adjacent thereto to enable removal of said outermost layer from the cable.

41. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a signal transmitting cable, the method comprising:

arranging a plurality of elongate, flexible first optical signal transmitting members in at least three rows, wherein for each said row containing a plurality of said members, said members are arranged such that neighbouring members of a row are in touching contact with each other, and each recess formed by neighbouring members of a first said row facing towards a second said row accommodates a respective member of a said second row;

surrounding said first optical signal transmitting members by a first layer of resin material curable by means of radiation such that only the outermost optical signal transmitting layers are in contact with said first layer, and said first layer is in touching contact with substantially all of the outward facing surface of the first signal transmitting portion; and

curing said first layer by means of radiation.

42. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 41, further comprising:

arranging a plurality of elongate, flexible second optical signal transmitting members around the periphery of said first layer such that each said second signal transmitting member is in touching contact with two adjacent said second optical signal transmitting members; and

fixing said second optical signal transmitting members in position relative to said first layer.

43. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 42, wherein the step of fixing said second optical signal transmitting members in position relative to said first layer comprises embedding said second optical signal transmitting members in a second layer.